(c) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), the Indian contribution is about 1.8% to 2.0% of the Global IT Software-ITES industry.

Procurement norm for private operators

1691. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. had sought a level playing field procurement norms that would necessitate private operators also to source equipment from vendors having manufacturing facility in India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, given the nature of public and private sectors, there cannot be an absolute parity between them in the matter of procurement. While BSNL has not demanded any parity in procurement of equipment with private telecom operators, its concern was in respect of the proposed initiative of promoting indigenous telecom manufacturing in its procurements.

(b) Indigenous manufacture of telephone equipments is felt desirable with the objective, *inter alia*, of the availability of desired quality/standard products at competitive rates, immediate availability of after-sales services and development of new technologies in the country. A procurement framework, whereby only vendors who indigenously manufacture (or have definite plans to do so) certain telecom products are alone eligible for procurement is under active consideration by BSNL and MTNL.

Telephone services in Madhya Pradesh

1692. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of telephone services provided to the rural and urban areas of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the details of the action taken to improve the telephone services provided to the tribal areas in Madhya Pradesh?